



**2009 World Conference on Higher Education:  
The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research  
for Societal Change and Development**

**(UNESCO, Paris, 5 – 8 July 2009)**

**PARALLEL STAKEHOLDERS' PANELS**

## Introduction

The 2009 WCHE brings together all of the key stakeholders with an interest in and a commitment to higher education and research. The Conference is designed for a broad-based debate of the challenges and opportunities that will shape the future dynamic development of higher education and research worldwide.

The conference will bring together Ministers and their delegates, university and higher education institution and association leaders, faculty members, researchers, staff and teachers' organizations, students and student organization leaders, private sector organizations as well as NGOs engaged in higher education and other representatives of civil society.

To offer each of these groups a structured opportunity to develop and express their contribution to the outcome of and future follow-up to the Conference, three Stakeholder Panels will take place simultaneously on the last day of the Conference. These Panels are:

Panel 1: Ministers or heads of delegations

Panel 2: Institutions, including staff (academic and administrative) and students

Panel 3: Civil society and private sector

## What is the task of the Stakeholders' Panels?

Taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the preparatory documents of the WCHE, the outcomes of the regional conferences, the results of the E-Forum, the conclusions from the NGO consultation and the Global Student Statement, the draft Conference Communiqué, and focusing on the major themes of the 2009 WCHE, each Panel is invited to:

- Outline and propose up to four (4) actions that could/should be undertaken by various actors and stakeholders in higher education, including national governments, the higher education and research community (institutions, faculty members, researchers, staff and students) and associations, private sector organisations, NGOs and civil society. These should also be addressed to IGOs, including UNESCO.

## How will the Panels work?

Each of the three Panels will adopt its own way of operating, finding the most appropriate manner in which to reach clear and concise statements that will form part of the Partners' Response presented during the Closing Plenary. These reports will subsequently contribute to UNESCO's development of a Global Higher Education Action Plan. They will also serve as additional input into the General Report of the Conference and material to consider when revising the final Conference Communiqué.

Chairs and rapporteurs of the three panels will meet during the coffee break to compare similarities and specificities of the panel discussions with the objective of preparing a coherent approach and report-back to plenary. Following the coffee break, they will return to their respective panel sessions to finalize the conclusions which will be handed over to the General Rapporteur and the Drafting Group.

### **Panel of Ministers**

Six Ministers (one from each electoral group) will present, during **5 minutes each**, introductory remarks on proposed actions relevant for their region. These will be followed by an interactive debate among all participants which are expected to provide **spontaneous** responses, reactions and suggestions.